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# INFO & NEWS *from the* Indiana Senate

## Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline



Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that will help reduce the amount of gas you use.

If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at [www.indianaconsumer.com](http://www.indianaconsumer.com)

**Drive Sensibly:** Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

**Observe the Speed Limit:** Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

**Avoid Excessive Idling:** Idling gets zero miles per hour and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

**Use Cruise Control:** Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

**Use Overdrive Gears:** Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

**Check & Replace Air Filters:** Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

**Keep Tires Properly Inflated:** Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

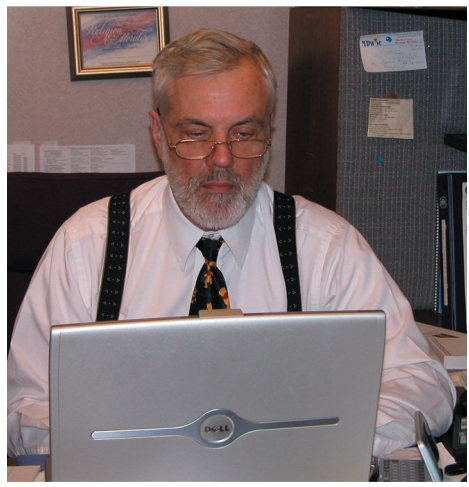
**Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil:** Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



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Serving District 17 in Allen, Grant, Huntington, Kosciusko, Wabash and Whitley counties





Sen. Dillon is working at his desk at the statehouse. When the General Assembly is not in session, legislators examine issues in detail and give more focused attention to particular issues not addressed during the legislative session.

**Did You Know...?**  
... that the average property tax bill went down this year?  
... that on June 30, 2006, the state officially overcame a \$600 million deficit and closed its books for the fiscal year with a balanced budget for the first time in a decade?

*How to contact Senator Gary Dillon*

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# Job Creation Legislation Proves Successful

— Indiana is on the Right Track —

Indiana has seen many changes over the past two years. At times, many people questioned these changes – including me – but I believe they have put Indiana back on the right track. We have seen many positive events over just the last couple of months that have made our state a better place to live and raise a family.

On June 30, Indiana closed its books on the fiscal year. For the first time in over a decade, we are in the black. Indiana erased a \$600 million structural deficit because the General Assembly was able to reduce government spending while still providing funding increase to education and child service, and giving Hoosier homeowners some much needed property tax relief.

Add to the good budget news a string of job announcements and low unemployment rates, and you'll find that Indiana's economic future, which was bleak at best 12 months ago, is now looking much better.

Indiana recently beat out Ohio and Illinois for a new Honda plant. The new plant in southern Indiana is a \$550 million investment and will eventually yield nearly 4,000 jobs.

- Recent job announcements also include:
- American Commercial Lines agreeing to create 1,100 jobs in Jeffersonville
  - Federal Express announcing a \$200 million expansion creating 800 new jobs in Indianapolis
  - Rolls Royce committing to bring 600 aerospace jobs to Indianapolis
  - Pfizer deciding to create 450 jobs in Terre Haute
  - American General Financial Services expanding its corporate headquarters to create 150 new jobs in Evansville

- Arbonne International opening a 400-employee distribution center in Greenwood.
- Nestle selecting Anderson for a 300-job facility
- Sallie Mae announcing 700 new jobs in Muncie

In 2005 and 2006 the IEDC has closed an estimated 31,000 new jobs and \$6.6 billion in private capital investment to our state. Our unemployment is the lowest of any of the surrounding states. There has been much good news these past 2 years-- it shows that our economy is growing and the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Council is paying off for Hoosiers.

Major Moves has the prospect of further energizing our economy and adding more high quality jobs in the transportation and distribution sectors. Indiana is positioned geographically to lead in these areas and we have seen considerable growth in the last few years. By improving our transportation infrastructure we should see this growth accelerate. Though we have not felt its economic impact yet, Major Moves has paid off the toll road bonds and is putting \$500 thousand of interest per day into our road fund.

Changes are always difficult and there have been many changes in Indiana under the Daniels administration. Some of them we have liked and some we have not. Some are working out well and some will need adjustment as time goes on. However, it is becoming clear that Indiana is on the move and is moving in a positive direction. At this point I am excited about the prospects for the future of our state and for the prospects of our children and grandchildren. I am confident that the future will hold more positives if we hold the course.

## 2006 Legislative Interim Senators Keep Working in Summer

### Dillon appointed to interim study committee

In early July, Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton (R-Columbus) appointed me to the **Interim Study Committee on Children's Issues.**

Legislators form commissions, study committees and advisory boards to examine issues in detail and to give more focused attention to particular issues not addressed during the legislative session.

The Interim Study Committee on Children's Issues was established to discuss issues regarding children in the state of Indiana. This year, the committee will study child labor issues, along with children's health issues, placing emphasis on diabetes and obesity.

I will also serve as a member of the following committees:

- Health Finance Commission
- Indiana Heritage Trust Committee
- Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission

- Select Joint Commission on Medicaid Oversight
- Pension Management Oversight Commission
- Commission on the Social Status of Black Males.
- Governor's Advisory Committee on the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant
- Medical Informatics Commission

I am excited to work alongside my colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives, producing innovative ideas that will help lead these committees forward. As legislators, we serve as the voice of the citizens we represent, with the ultimate goal of creating future legislation that will serve the best interests of all Hoosiers.

For more information, visit [www.in.gov/legislative/interim](http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim)



Sen. Dillon is pictured with Gov. Mitch Daniels. The governor signed into law Dillon's Senate Enrolled Act 208, which allows people who are allergic to certain drugs, or have special medical conditions to put this information on their driver's license, ID card, or learner's permit.

# Alternative Energy Fuels Indiana's Economy

## Indiana is leading the nation in biofuels

The General Assembly has passed several alternative fuel incentives in recent legislative sessions that have placed Indiana at the top of the biofuels industry.

Ethanol and biodiesel burn cleaner, reduce the state's dependence on foreign sources of energy and increase economic opportunities for our state.

Ethanol and biodiesel production have a very positive impact on Indiana farmers. Indiana is the fifth largest state for corn production and fourth largest in soybeans. These are the two key dynamics associated with ethanol/biodiesel production.

Currently, Indiana sends almost 50 percent of corn and soybean productions out of state with no values added, which is the least profitable form of sale for farmers.

It is estimated that farmers contracting with ethanol or biodiesel plants will gain an

incremental 15 cents to 20 cents per bushel.

Indiana has 15 ethanol plants announced or under construction, which will produce 840 million gallons of ethanol.

The new ethanol and biodiesel plants will put an estimated \$17.5 million into Hoosier farmers' pockets while investing more than \$1.27 billion in capital expenses.

Indiana also boasts dozens of new fueling stations. There are more than 50 biodiesel pumps and 40 E-85 pumps across the state.

With this amazing progress in such a short time, I am very encouraged that these proposals can take us even further.

I am very proud that Indiana is a national leader in alternative fuels.

